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INFORMATIONS REPORT

25X1A
COUNTRY Lebanon

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1. The Soviet Information Bureau in Beirut is headed by Vladimir Ivanov. Fyodor Pisarenko, Cultural Attaché at the Soviet Legation in Beirut, seems to be in charge of liaison between the Bureau and the Legation.

2. There are three Lebanese working in the office of the Bureau. They are:

Farid Farah - Maronite Communist and manager of the house occupied by the Association for Cultural Relations between Lebanon and the USSR. [REDACTED] Comment. In October 1947, Farah was reported to be a special liaison officer in charge of financial transactions between the Communist Party and the Soviet Legation. 25X1A

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25X1A Spiridon Salum - [REDACTED] Comment. Spiridon Salum is identical with Spiro Salum Hamawi, a reporter for the TASS Agency.)

George Jurdak - Orthodox Communist, and a distant cousin of Professor Jurdak of the American University in Beirut. George Jurdak is at present writing a book in Arabic on the life of Maxim Gorki. [REDACTED] Comment. In July 1947 a George Jurdak was reported as a teacher at the Patriarchal College. He gave source some information on Soviet subsidies to that organization. [REDACTED] 25X1A 25X1X

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. Kamal Inkarzil has also been reported to be working for the Soviet Bureau of Information, although he is not mentioned by source.)

3. On 22 July, the Soviet Information Bureau published the first Arab language issue of its bulletin. Ra'if Khuri is responsible for translating the bulletin into Arabic. All copies of this first issue, which had been dispatched by-post, were confiscated by the Lebanese authorities, who gave as their excuse to the Soviet Legation the fact that two articles on Palestine which had appeared in the bulletin had not been passed by the censor. The bulletin is to appear weekly.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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4. Not actually working in the office of the Information Bureau but participating actively in its propaganda and collaborating in preparing the Bureau's bulletin, are: Emily Faris Ibrahim, Ra'if Khuri and Mikhail Na'imah. Na'imah, an Orthodox Christian, is a philosopher and a man of letters. He is not a Communist, but sympathizes with Communist Party aims and is a friend of Alexander Sergeiev. Na'imah knows the Russian language and the Russian people well, as he spent five years in Russia, studying for the priesthood. At present he translates Russian into Arabic for the Information Bureau. [REDACTED] Comment. 25X1A Na'imah is probably the greatest Lebanese poet and writer alive, and his biography of Khalil Gibran is known throughout the Arabic world. He visited the United States some years ago.)

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